

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 12, 15, 22, 26, 29 and 138-140 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend Claim 8, and add new Claims 144-149 as set forth below.

1. (Original) A compound comprising a ligand that specifically reacts with a first receptor not naturally present in mammals, wherein the compound further comprises a molecular cage covalently bound to the ligand that prevents reaction of the ligand with the first receptor, wherein the ligand is released from the cage and capable of reacting with the first receptor upon exposure of the compound to light.

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the first receptor is an ecdysone receptor.

3. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the ligand is a steroid.

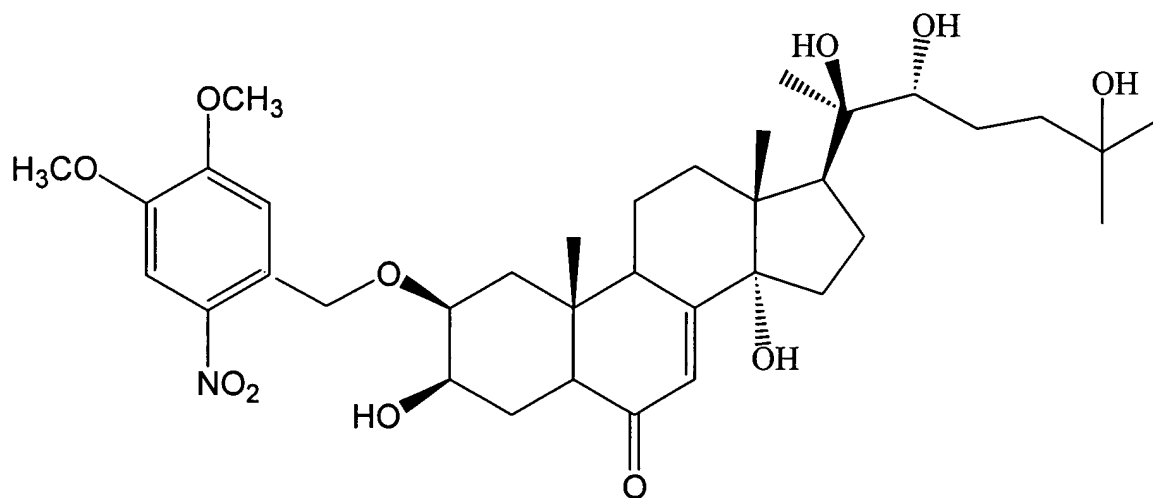
4. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the ligand is an inhibitor of the first receptor.

5. (Original) The compound of claim 2, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of ecdysone, 20-hydroxyecdysone, ponasterone A, muristerone A, inokosterone, 3,5-di-*tert*-butyl-4-hydroxy-N-isobutyl-benzamide and a dibenzoylhydrazine.

6. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the molecular cage is a nitromethoxybenzyl moiety.

7. (Original) The compound of claim 6, wherein the nitromethoxybenzyl moiety is 1-methyl-4,5-dimethoxy-2-nitrobenzene.

8. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 7, wherein the compound is 4-~~of~~  
FIG. 1



9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the molecular cage is a two-photon cage.

12-130. (Canceled)

131. (Original) A kit for the conditional expression of a gene of interest in a cell, the kit comprising, in suitable containers, the compound of claim 1 and a vector comprising a gene encoding the first receptor.

132. (Original) The kit of claim 131, further comprising a first vector comprising a gene encoding a viral receptor, the viral receptor allowing entry of a viral vector into a cell, and

the viral vector comprising a site for insertion of the gene of interest such that the gene of interest can be expressed when the viral vector infects the cell.

133. (Original) The kit of claim 132, wherein the viral receptor is a TVA receptor for subgroup A avian leucosis virus and the viral vector is a subgroup A avian leucosis virus.

134-143. (Canceled)

144. (New) The compound of claim 1, wherein the light comprises wavelengths at 300-400 nm.

145. (New) The compound of claim 1, wherein the light comprises wavelengths at 325-375 nm.

146. (New) The kit of claim 132, wherein the site for insertion of the gene of interest is operably linked to an inducible promoter.

147. (New) The kit of claim 132, wherein the site for insertion of the gene of interest is operably linked to a constitutive promoter.

148. (New) The kit of claim 131, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

149. (New) The kit of claim 131, further comprising instructions for expressing the gene of interest in the cell transfected with the vector, and exposed to the compound and light.